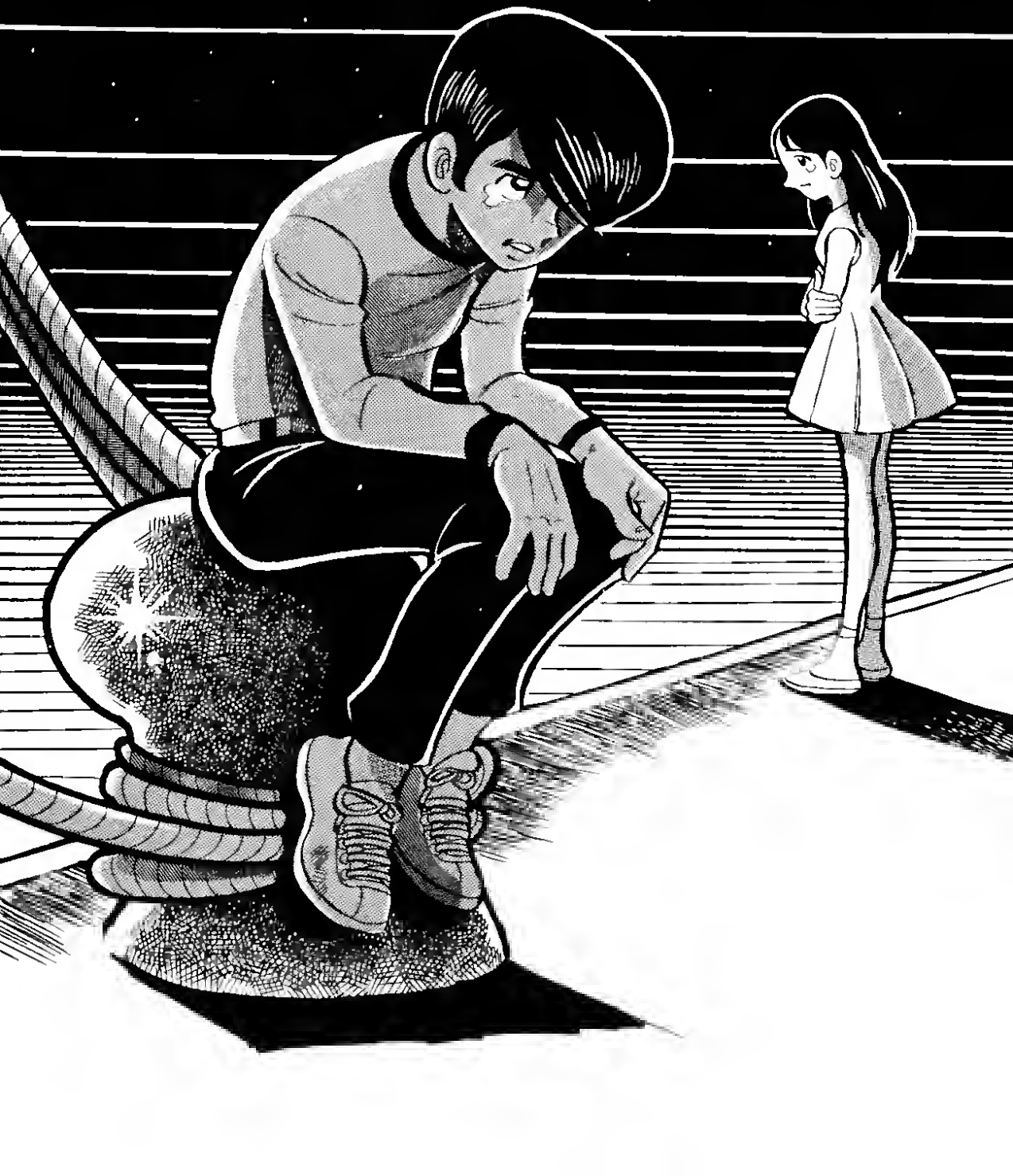
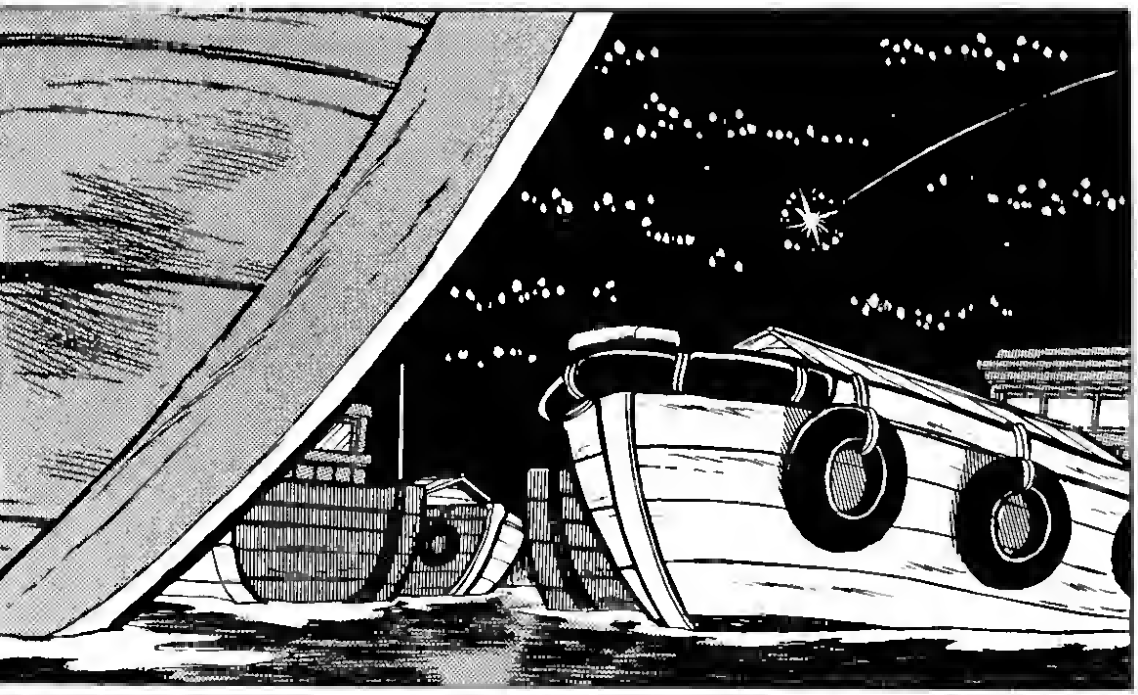
CHAPTER 3:
SETTING SAIL FOR HOPE





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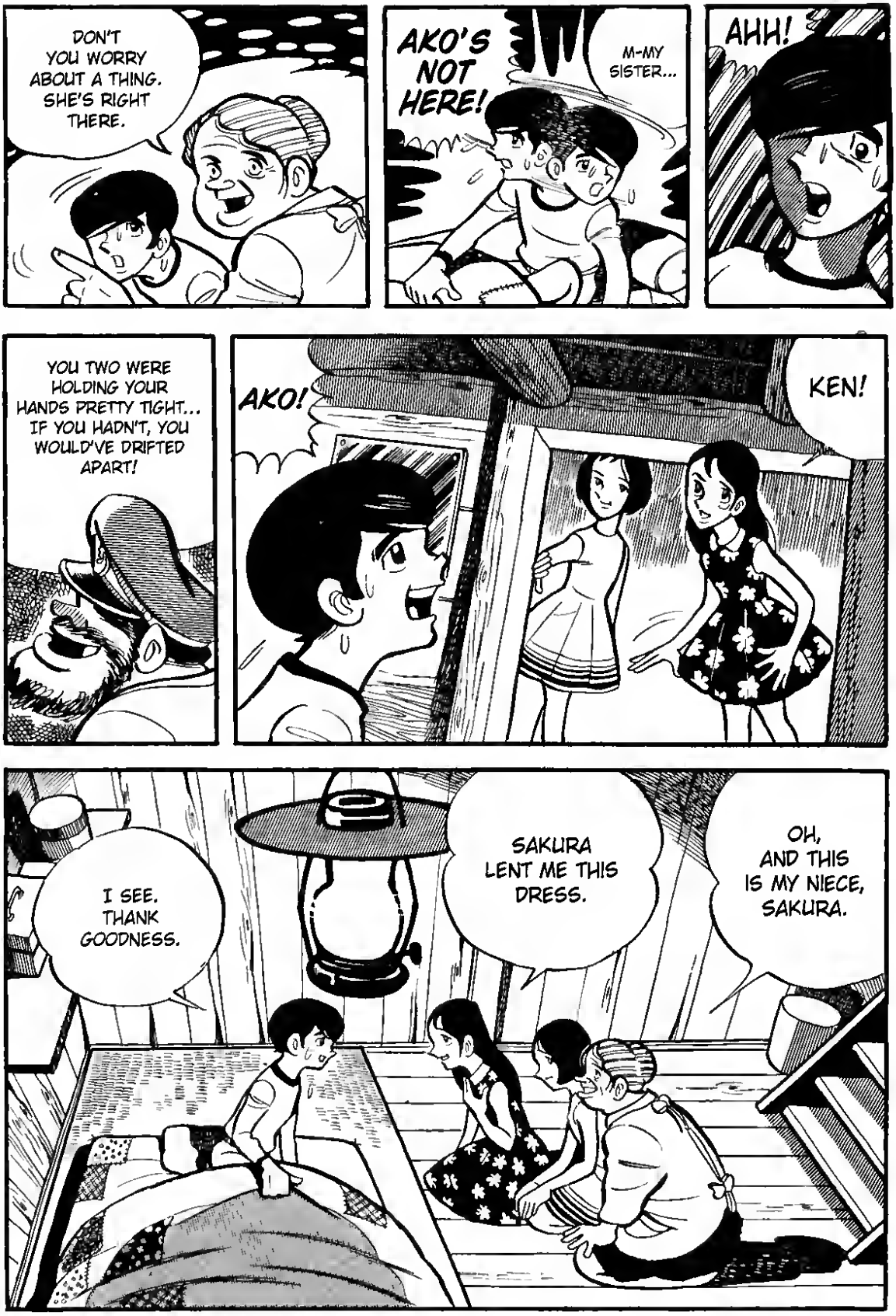
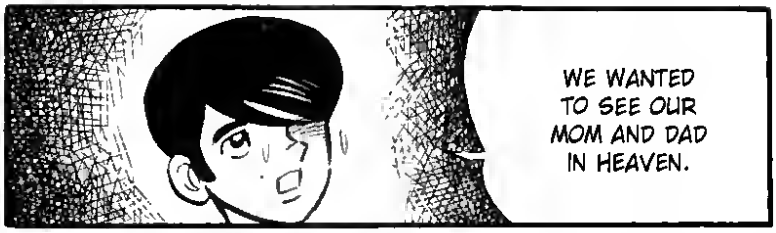
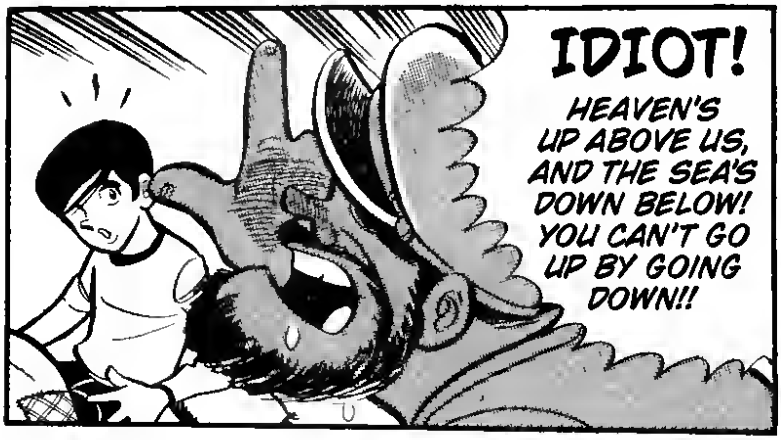
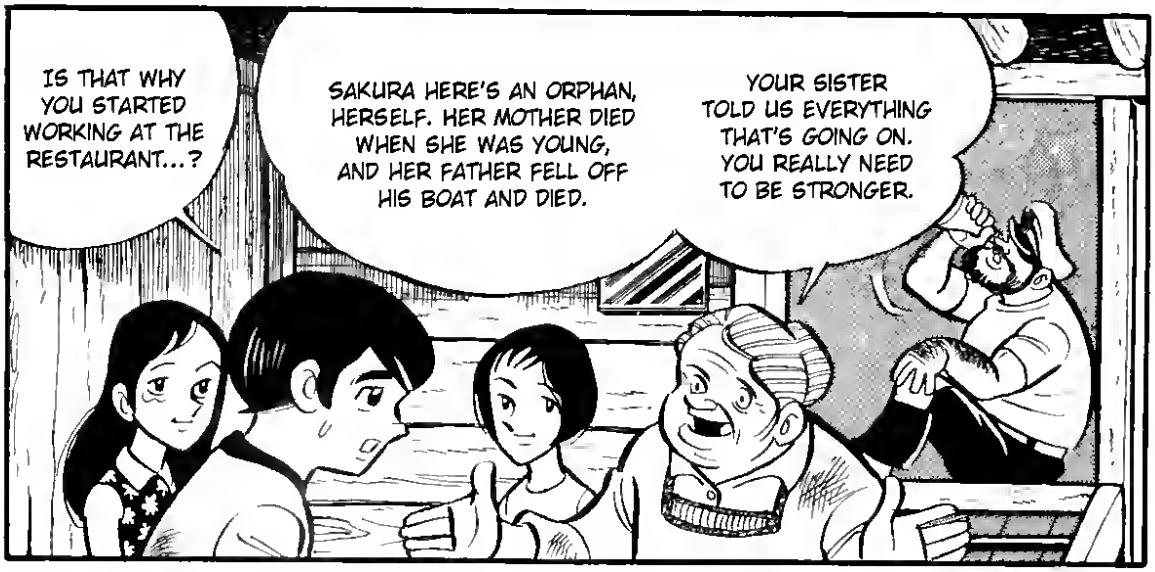
Unn-ngh...
G... GRANNY...
Unn-ngh...
W-WHAT AM I DOING HERE?
THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE AWAKE!
WHEN HE CARRIED YOU TO MY BOAT, I WAS SO SURPRISED THAT I RECOGNIZED YOU...
I JUST HAPPENED TO BE ON MY BOAT, DRINKING AT THE TIME... AND I SURE SOBERED UP, THANKS TO YOU!
CAPTAIN AGOHIGE HERE SAVED YOUR LIFE.
SO, YOU'RE FINALLY AWAKE!

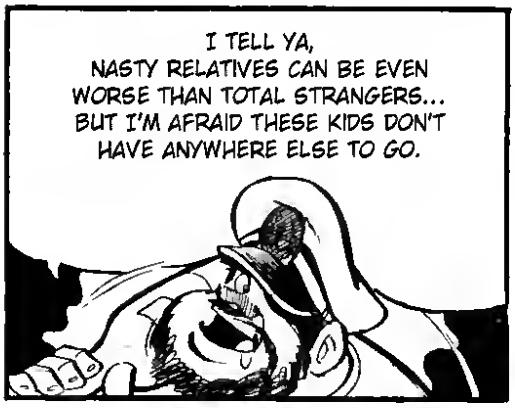

DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT A THING. SHE'S RIGHT THERE.
AKO'S NOT HERE!
M-MY SISTER...
AHH!
YOU TWO WERE HOLDING YOUR HANDS PRETTY TIGHT... IF YOU HADN'T, YOU WOULD'VE DRIFTED APART!
AKO!
KEN!
I SEE. THANK GOODNESS.
SAKURA LENT ME THIS DRESS.
OH, AND THIS IS MY NIECE, SAKURA.

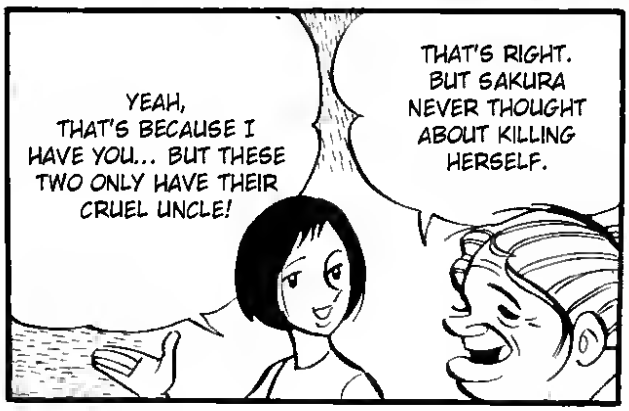

WE WANTED TO SEE OUR MOM AND DAD IN HEAVEN.

DID I JUST HEAR YOU SAY "THANK GOODNESS"? IF YOU'RE SO GLAD YOU'RE SAFE, THEN WHY'D YOU TRY TO KILL YOURSELF IN THE FIRST PLACE?

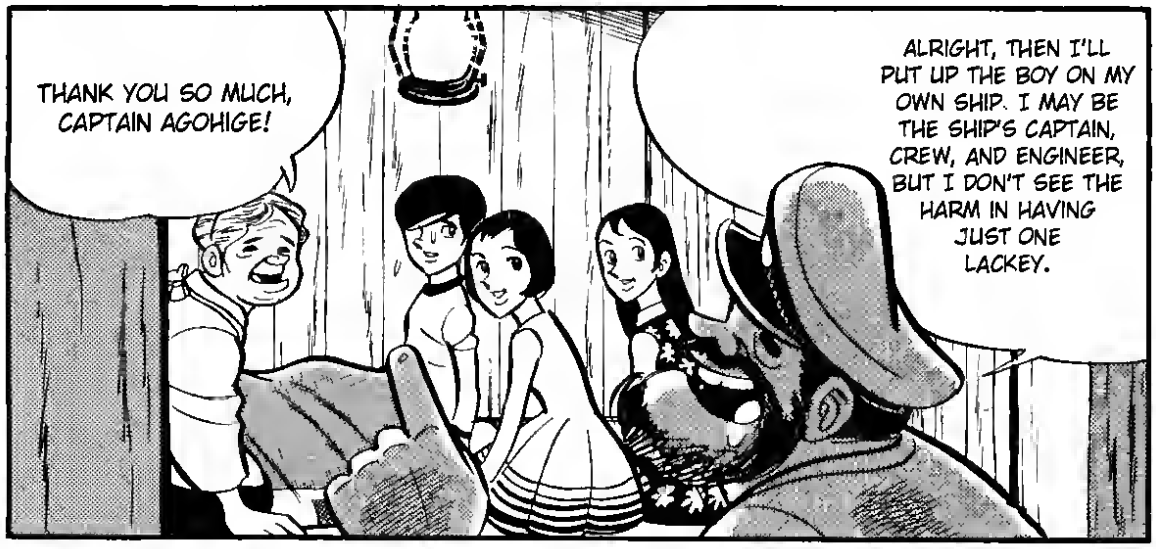

IDIOT!
HEAVEN'S UP ABOVE US, AND THE SEA'S DOWN BELOW! YOU CAN'T GO UP BY GOING DOWN!!

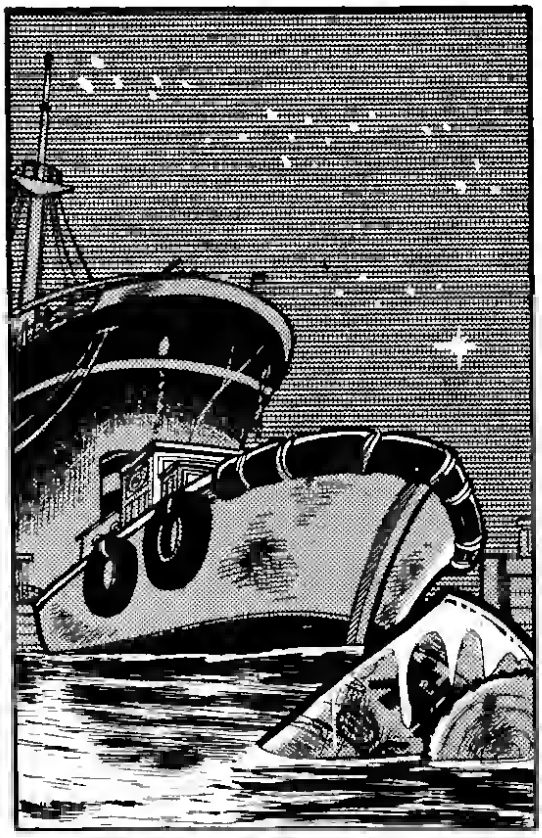

IS THAT WHY YOU STARTED WORKING AT THE RESTAURANT...?
SAKURA HERE'S AN ORPHAN, HERSELF. HER MOTHER DIED WHEN SHE WAS YOUNG, AND HER FATHER FELL OFF HIS BOAT AND DIED.
YOUR SISTER TOLD US EVERYTHING THAT'S GOING ON. YOU REALLY NEED TO BE STRONGER.

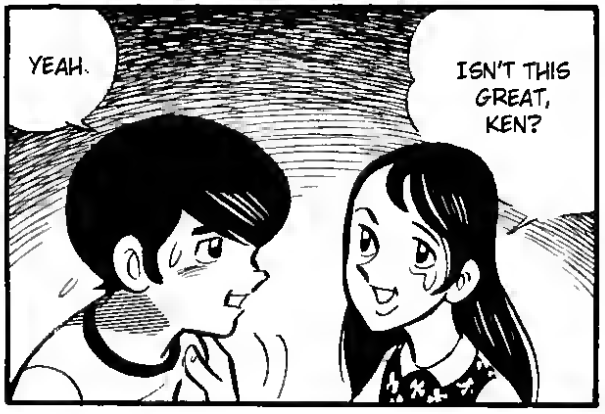

I TELL YA, NASTY RELATIVES CAN BE EVEN WORSE THAN TOTAL STRANGERS... BUT I'M AFRAID THESE KIDS DON'T HAVE ANYWHERE ELSE TO GO.


YEAH, THAT'S BECAUSE I HAVE YOU... BUT THESE TWO ONLY HAVE THEIR CRUEL UNCLE!
THAT'S RIGHT. BUT SAKURA NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT KILLING HERSELF.

BUT THIS BOAT'S NOT BIG ENOUGH FOR FOUR...
BUT WE CAN'T LET THEM GO BACK THERE! THAT COULD KILL AKO... WHY DON'T WE LET THEM STAY HERE?


THANK YOU SO MUCH, CAPTAIN AGOHIGE!
ALRIGHT, THEN I'LL PUT UP THE BOY ON MY OWN SHIP. I MAY BE THE SHIP'S CAPTAIN, CREW, AND ENGINEER, BUT I DON'T SEE THE HARM IN HAVING JUST ONE LACKEY.




YEAH.
ISN'T THIS GREAT, KEN?

YOU IDIOT!
AT LEAST IT'S BETTER THAN DYING, ISN'T IT...? YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY. HOME IS WHERE YOU HANG YOUR HEART!
ALRIGHT, HERE'S YOUR BUNK.
I-IT'S A LITTLE DIRTY...
NOPE, NOTHING.
OH, RIGHT, YOU MUST BE HUNGRY! LET'S SEE WHAT I'VE... GOT...
SURE YOU ARE. IF YOU CAN'T TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, YOU'RE A KID.
BUT I'M NOT A KID!
HEY, NO NEED TO HOLD BACK, KID!
SHUT
I DON'T NEED ANY-THING.
I SAID, YOU DON'T NEED TO HOLD BACK.
BUT AREN'T YOU OUT OF SAKE? I CAN BUY YOU SOME SAKE.
ALRIGHT, WHY DON'T YOU GO BUY YOURSELF SOMETHING NICE?
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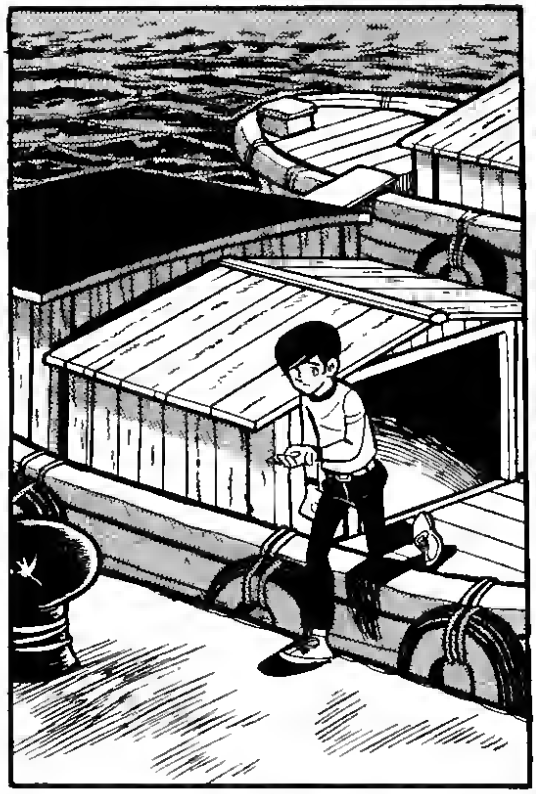
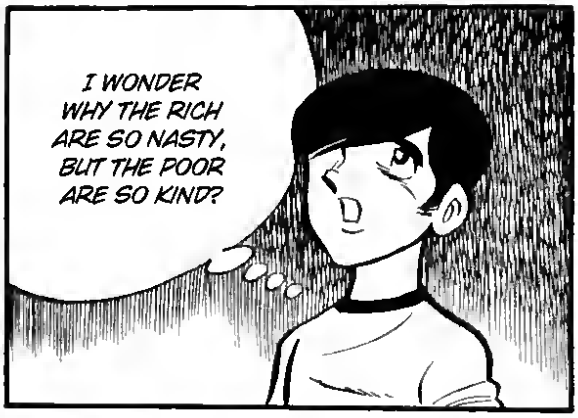
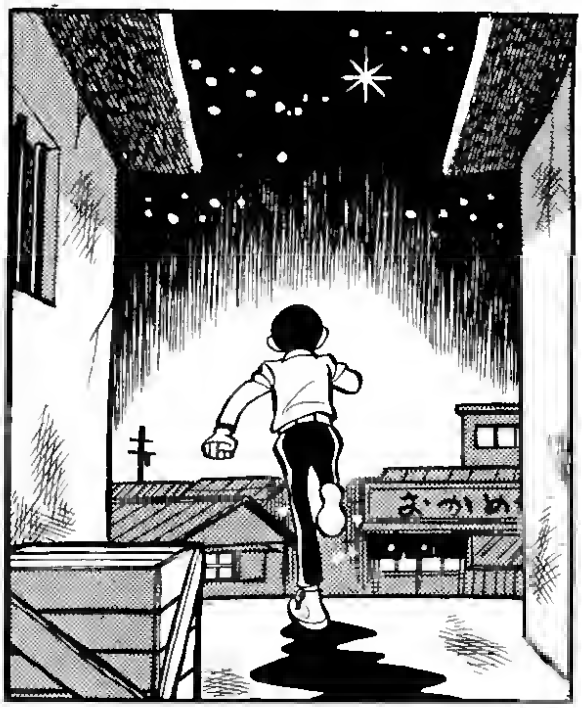
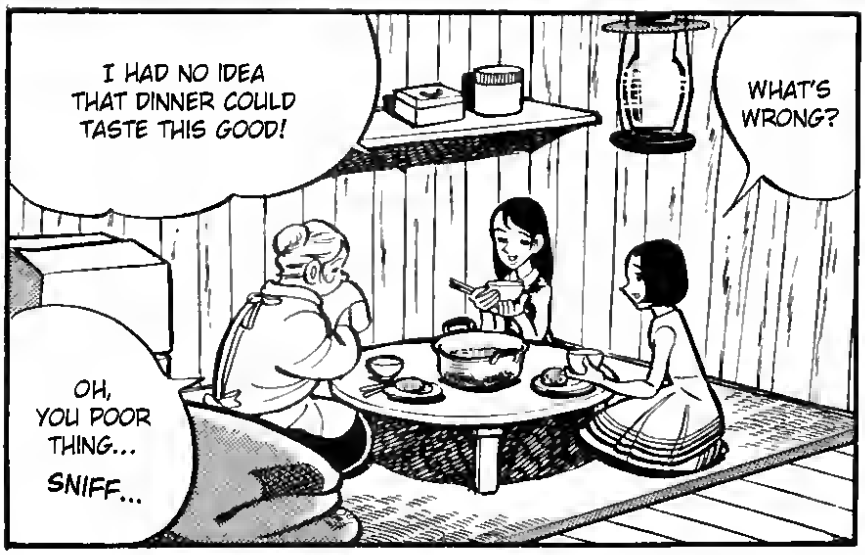


ALRIGHT.
BUT THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH TO BUY YOU SOME BREAD!
I'VE ONLY GOT FIFTY YEN THOUGH...

AND THAT ALCOHOL IS THE ONE THING HE HAS TO LOOK FORWARD TO...
THAT CAPTAIN'S FORGOING BUYING SAKE JUST SO I CAN HAVE BREAD TO EAT.
NO
JAPAN


I WONDER WHY THE RICH ARE SO NASTY, BUT THE POOR ARE SO KIND?

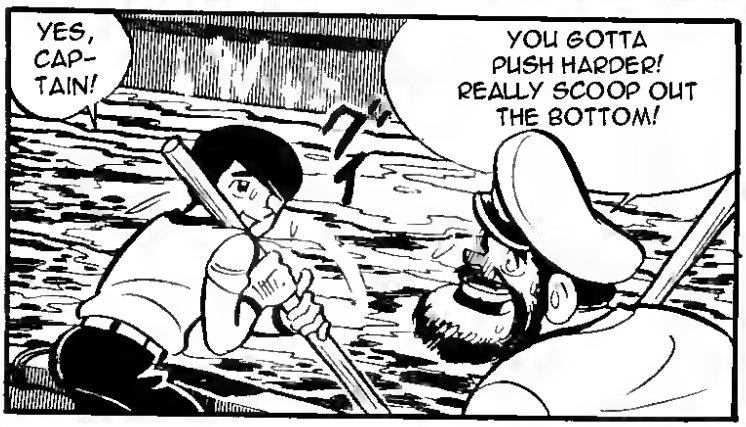


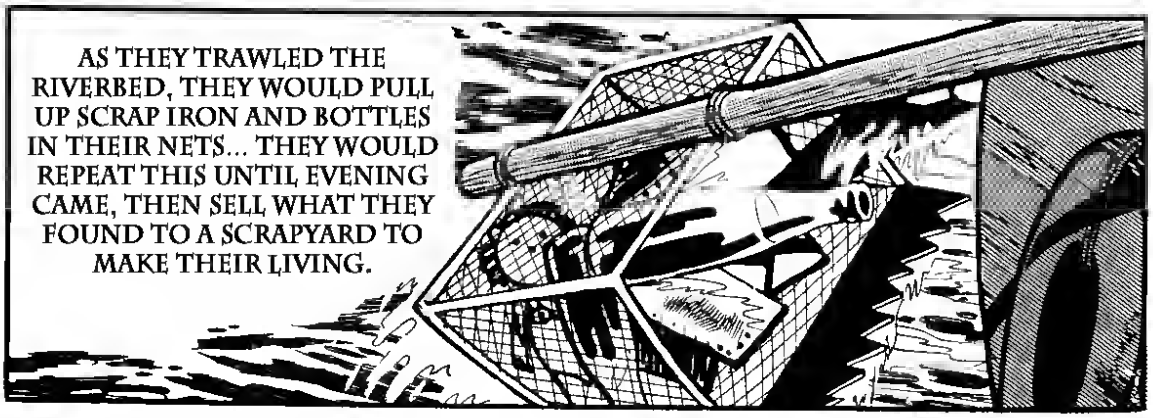

I HAD NO IDEA THAT DINNER COULD TASTE THIS GOOD!
WHAT'S WRONG?
OH, YOU POOR THING...
SNIFF...

.....

BESIDES, CAPTAIN AGOHIGE DOES NOTHING BUT DRINK ALL DAY. I'M SURE HE'LL START EATING NOW, WITH THAT BOY AROUND...
...SURE HE IS!
DO YOU THINK KEN'S EATING, TOO?
YES. I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT WANT A DRINK.
YOU BOUGHT ME SAKE?
HERE.
THIS IS FIRST-CLASS SAKE! I ONLY DRINK BAD SAKE, LIKE DOBUROKU!
HUH?
AHHH, WHAT A WASTE!
I...I'LL KEEP THAT IN MIND.
Gwaha haha!
IT'LL GET YOU DRUNK THREE TIMES OVER FOR ONLY HALF THE COST! THEN YOU COULD'VE BOUGHT SOME BREAD WITH THE REST. GUESS YOU STILL DON'T KNOW THE VALUE OF MONEY!

AND STARTING THE NEXT DAY, KEN AND THE CAPTAIN TOOK THE BOAT OUT TO TRAWL THE RIVERS AND THE SEA.

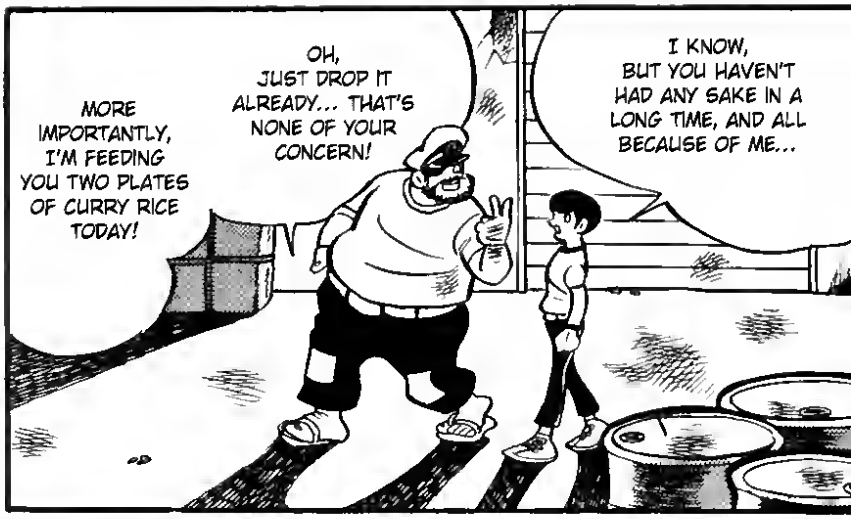

YES, CAP-TAIN!
YOU GOTTA PUSH HARDER! REALLY SCOOP OUT THE BOTTOM!


AS THEY TRAWLED THE RIVERBED, THEY WOULD PULL UP SCRAP IRON AND BOTTLES IN THEIR NETS... THEY WOULD REPEAT THIS UNTIL EVENING CAME, THEN SELL WHAT THEY FOUND TO A SCRAPYARD TO MAKE THEIR LIVING.

YOSHIDA SCRAP
WE DID ALL THAT WORK FOR ONLY 123 YEN...?
REALLY? THAT'S MORE THAN I WAS EXPECTING.
I'LL GIVE YOU 123 YEN FOR ALL OF THIS.
HEY, POPS, I THINK YOU GAVE ME A HUNDRED-YEN COIN INSTEAD OF A ONE-YEN COIN!!
OH, YOU'RE RIGHT! MY SIGHT'S NOT WHAT IT USED TO BE.
NO, YOU IDIOT! YOU'VE GOTTA LIVE HONESTLY!!
WHY DID YOU GIVE IT BACK, CAPTAIN? IT WAS HIS MISTAKE, AND THAT WOULD'VE BEEN 99 YEN EXTRA!

KID, DO YOU THINK I'D ENJOY SAKE BOUGHT WITH ILL-GOTTEN MONEY?
BUT IF YOU HAD THAT KIND OF MONEY, YOU COULD DRINK MORE DOBUROKU!

SAKE 25 YEN
RICE CURRY 40 YEN


I KNOW, BUT YOU HAVEN'T HAD ANY SAKE IN A LONG TIME, AND ALL BECAUSE OF ME...
OH, JUST DROP IT ALREADY... THAT'S NONE OF YOUR CONCERN!
MORE IMPORTANTLY, I'M FEEDING YOU TWO PLATES OF CURRY RICE TODAY!

ALRIGHT, HERE WE ARE!
FUKAGAWA
DAWN

WOULD YOU LIKE SAKE WITH THAT?
NO, NOT TODAY.
THREE PLATES OF CURRY RICE, PLEASE!
WELCOME BACK, CAPTAIN AGOHIGE!
C-CAN YOU PLEASE KEEP IT DOWN?
YEAH, IT'S JUST INDESCRIBABLE!
OOOOH, THAT HITS THE SPOT!
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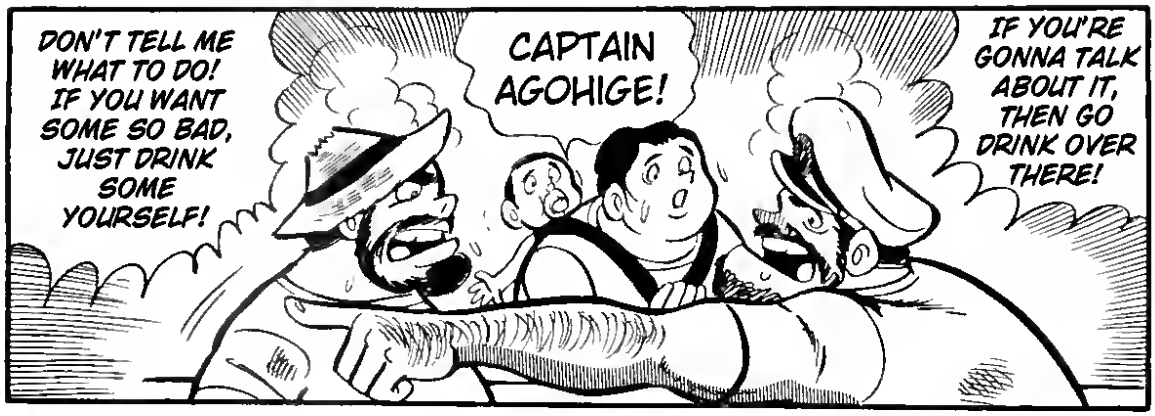
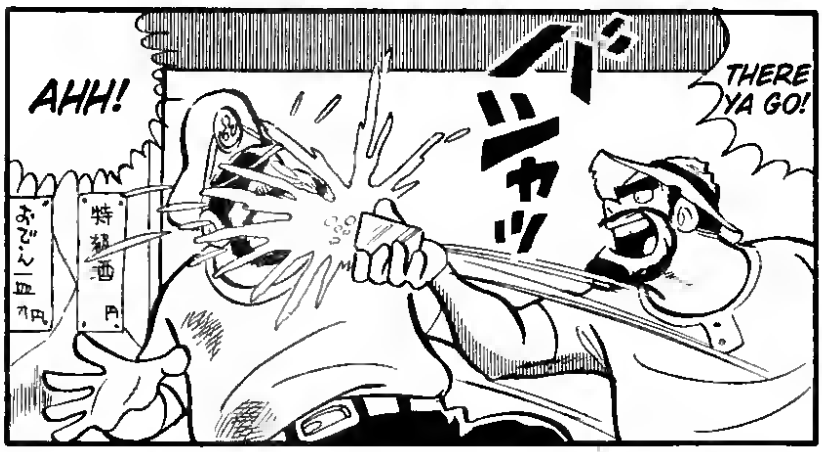
WHAT'S WRONG WITH SAYING IT?
STOP SAYING HOW DELICIOUS IT IS!
DELICIOUS!
AHHHH! I CAN FEEL IT WARMING ME UP DEEP INSIDE!


DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO! IF YOU WANT SOME SO BAD, JUST DRINK SOME YOURSELF!
CAPTAIN AGOHIGE!
IF YOU'RE GONNA TALK ABOUT IT, THEN GO DRINK OVER THERE!

I'M SAYING THIS CAUSE I CAN'T DRINK IT!! YOU DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO DRINK IF YOU CAN'T PUT YOURSELF IN A DRINKER'S SHOES!!


AHH!
THERE YA GO!
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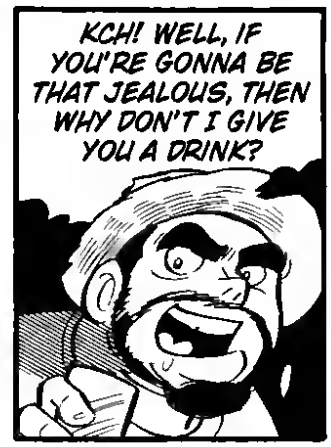
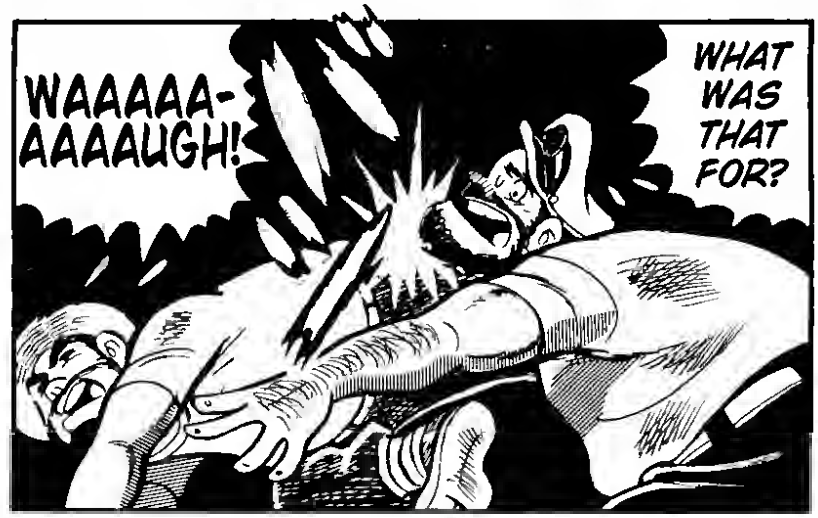

KCH! WELL, IF YOU'RE GONNA BE THAT JEALOUS, THEN WHY DON'T I GIVE YOU A DRINK?

DAMMIT... IT'S ON NOW!


WAAAAA-AAAAUGH!
WHAT WAS THAT FOR?

ASS-HOLE!
STOP! PLEASE, STOP IT!
Unn ngh...
STOP!
C-CAPTAIN!
KCH!

AGOHIGE, THE CAPTAIN OF A SCRAP SHIP.
Who is it?
SOMEONE'S BEEN REALLY HURT! PLEASE HELP HIM!
Yamada
YAMADA CLINIC
DOCTOR! DOCTOR!
BUT HIS CAR IS OUT FRONT!
I'm afraid the doctor is out.
I CAN'T MOVE HIM! THAT'S WHY I'M ASKING YOU!
If you're in such a hurry, then call an ambulance!!
That's none of my business.
What? A scrap ship captain...? No, those sailors are poor. Send him away.
Internal Medicine
Surgery
Proctologist
IMA CLINIC

The doctor is out.
I'm afraid the doctor just left for a medical conference. You just missed him.

WHY? WHY WON'T THEY EVEN TREAT PEOPLE WHO HAVE NO MONEY? DON'T WE DESERVE TO LIVE?
THEY'RE LYING!! THEY'RE LYING!! THEY'RE ALL LYING!!
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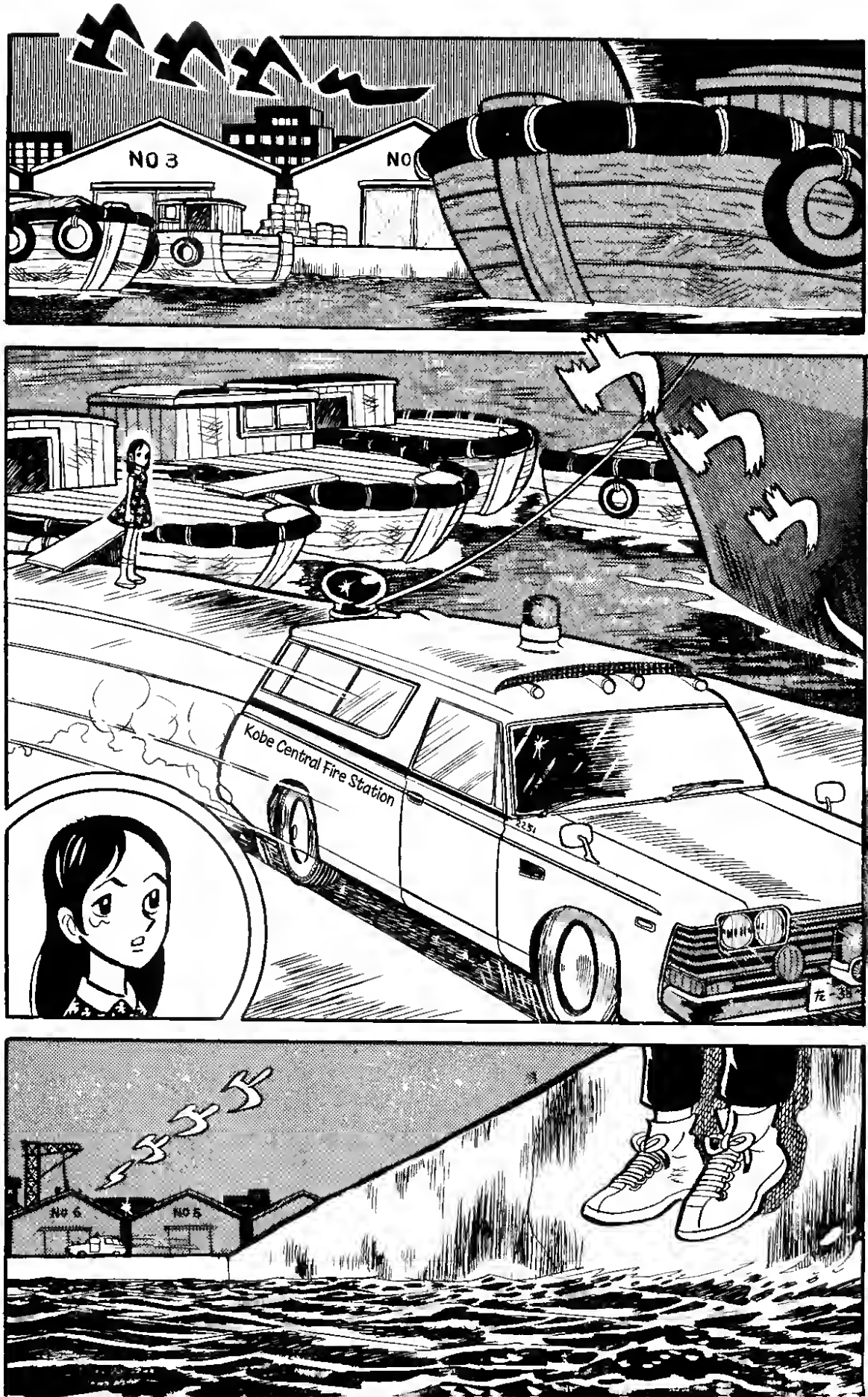
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Kobe Central Fire Station
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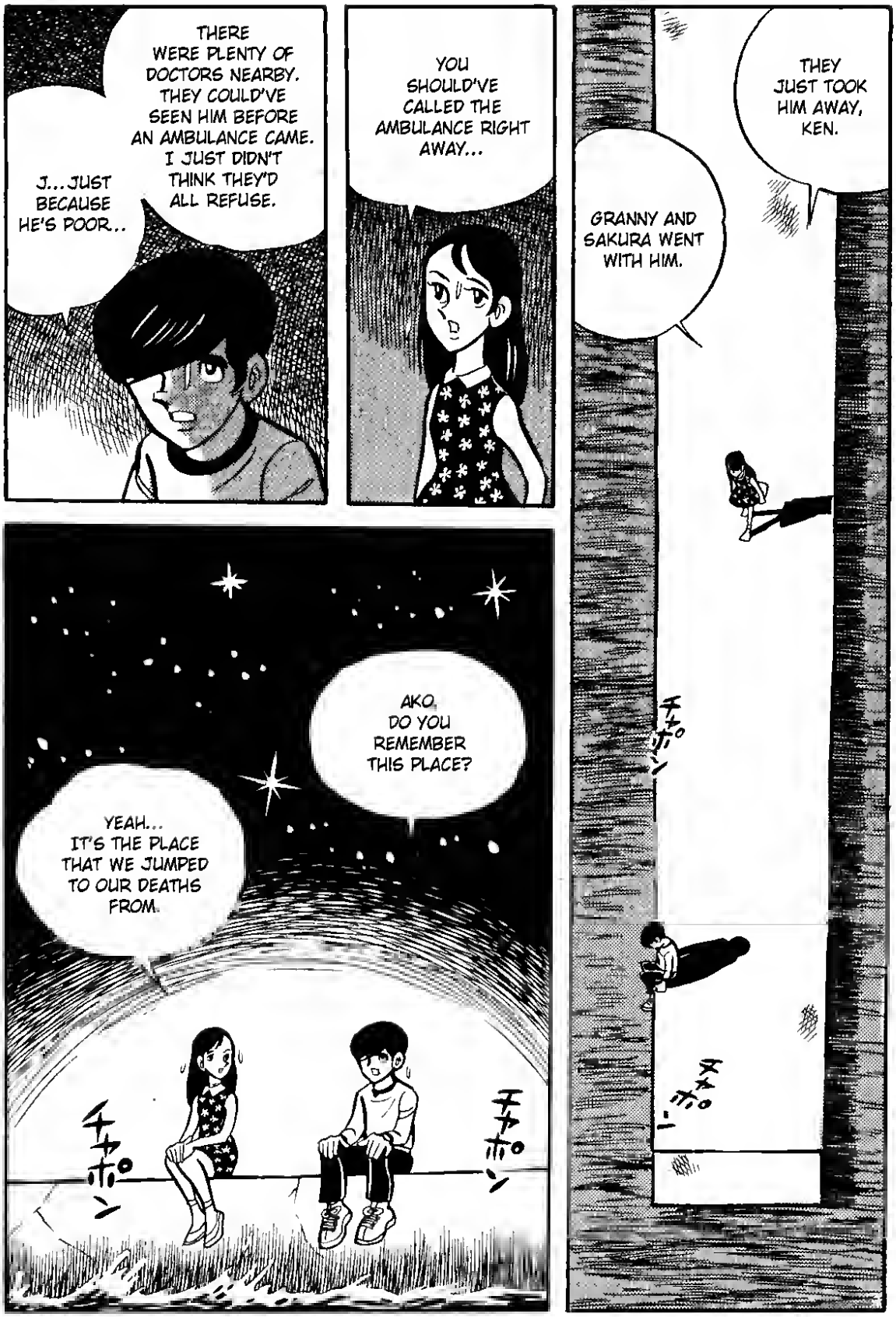
THEY JUST TOOK HIM AWAY, KEN.
GRANNY AND SAKURA WENT WITH HIM.
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チャポン
YOU SHOULD'VE CALLED THE AMBULANCE RIGHT AWAY...
THERE WERE PLENTY OF DOCTORS NEARBY. THEY COULD'VE SEEN HIM BEFORE AN AMBULANCE CAME. I JUST DIDN'T THINK THEY'D ALL REFUSE.
J...JUST BECAUSE HE'S POOR..
AKO, DO YOU REMEMBER THIS PLACE?
YEAH... IT'S THE PLACE THAT WE JUMPED TO OUR DEATHS FROM.
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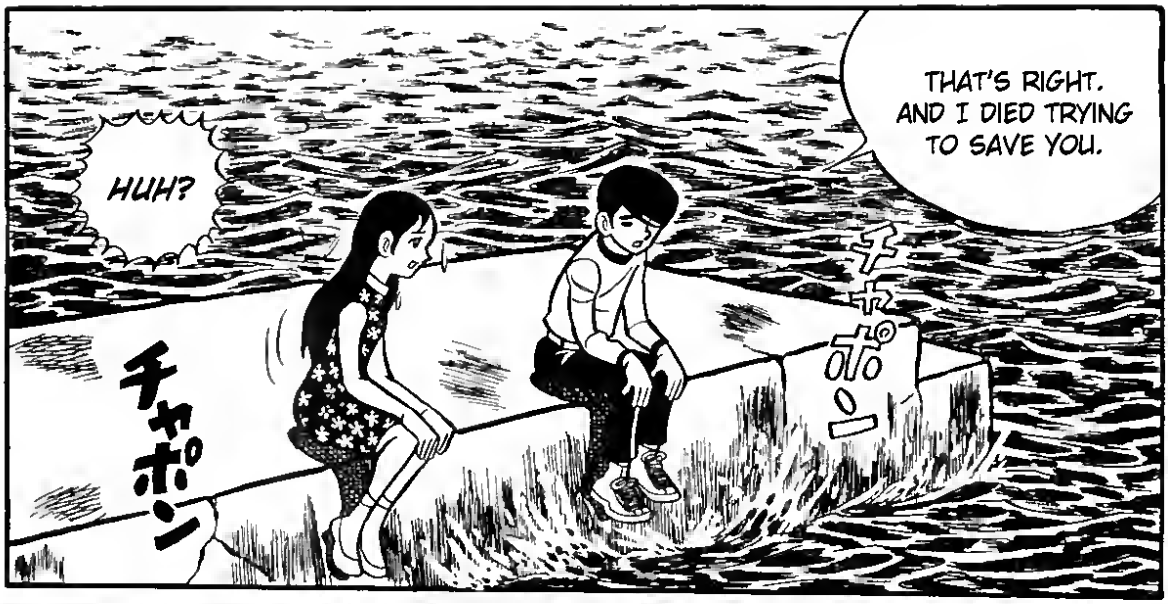

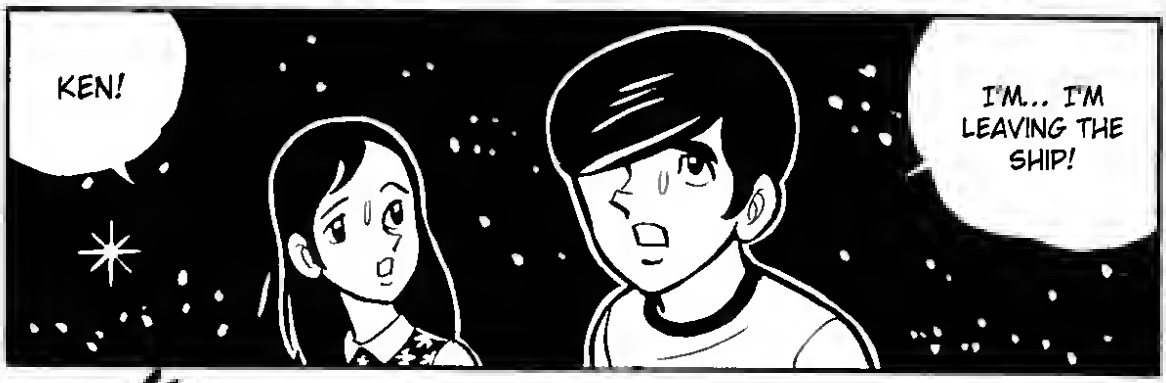

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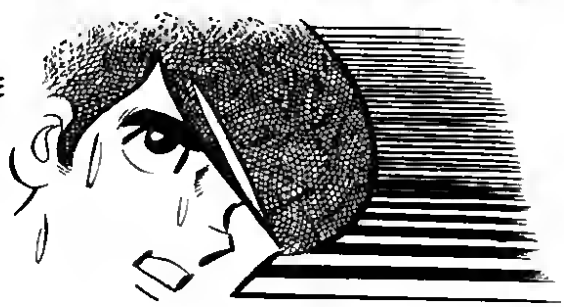
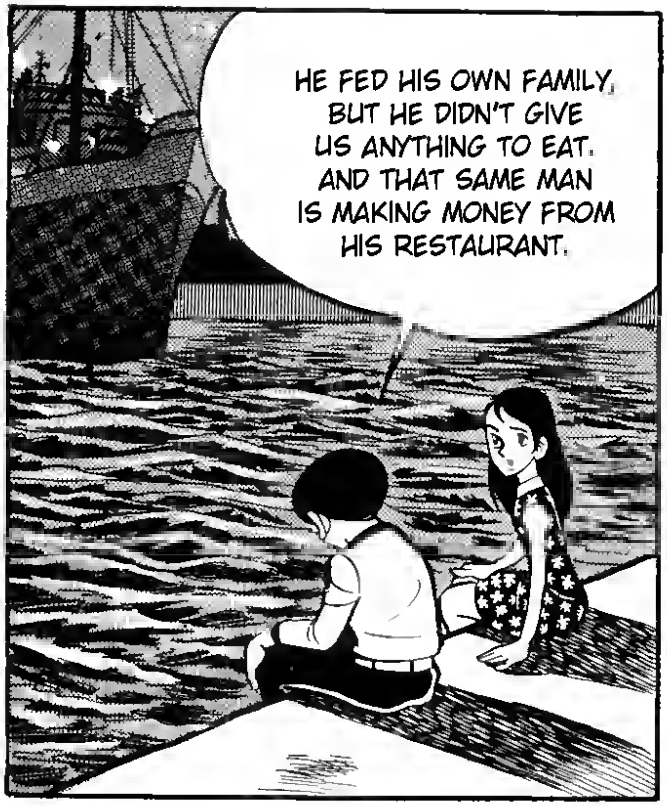
THE DOCTORS ALL TURNED US AWAY AS SOON AS THEY HEARD THAT HE WORKS ON A SCRAP SHIP...
NEVER BEFORE HAVE I FELT SO DESPERATE FOR MONEY.

FOR MOST OF OUR LIVES UNTIL NOW, MOM AND DAD BOUGHT US EVERY-THING WE WANTED, AND WE NEVER HAD TO GO HUNGRY.

THE WORLD IS A TERRIBLE PLACE.



I REALIZED THAT, TOO. BUT EVEN IF WE'RE POOR, WE CAN STILL MAKE AN HONEST LIVING.
NO!!
KEN...
YOU CAN'T MAKE MONEY BY DOING ANYTHING HONEST.
JUST LISTEN TO ME, AKO.
AND ALL BECAUSE DAD MADE MONEY... BUT MOM AND DAD AREN'T HERE ANYMORE.
BUT WE STILL NEED MONEY TO EAT... AND NOW I KNOW JUST HOW MUCH WE NEED TO WORK TO MAKE MONEY.


HE FED HIS OWN FAMILY, BUT HE DIDN'T GIVE US ANYTHING TO EAT. AND THAT SAME MAN IS MAKING MONEY FROM HIS RESTAURANT.

TAKE UNCLE KENJIRO, FOR EXAMPLE. HE BORROWED MONEY FROM DAD, BUT NOW HE'S LYING ABOUT IT, ALL BECAUSE THERE'S NO PROOF OF IT.
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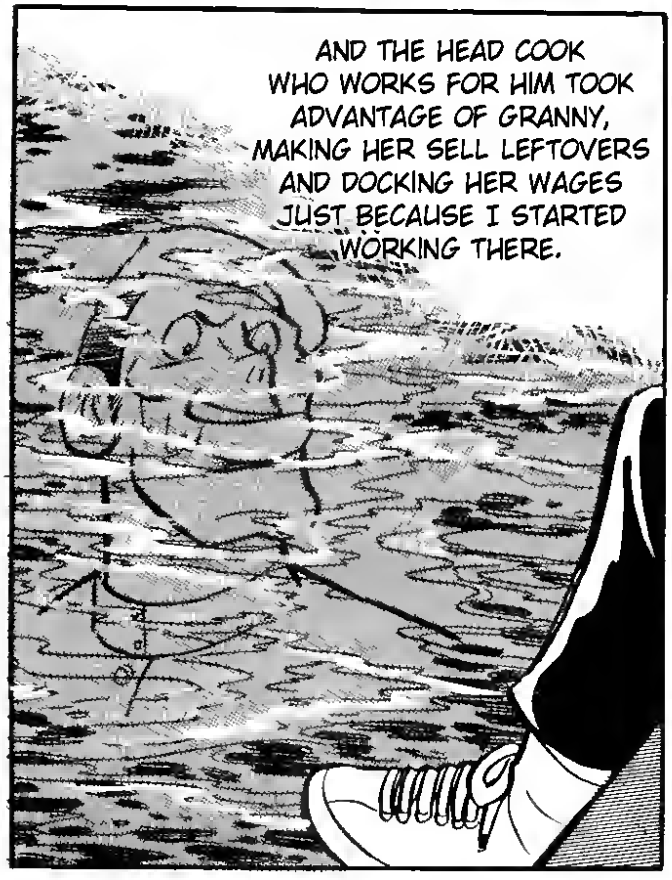

AND THE HEAD COOK WHO WORKS FOR HIM TOOK ADVANTAGE OF GRANNY, MAKING HER SELL LEFTOVERS AND DOCKING HER WAGES JUST BECAUSE I STARTED WORKING THERE.

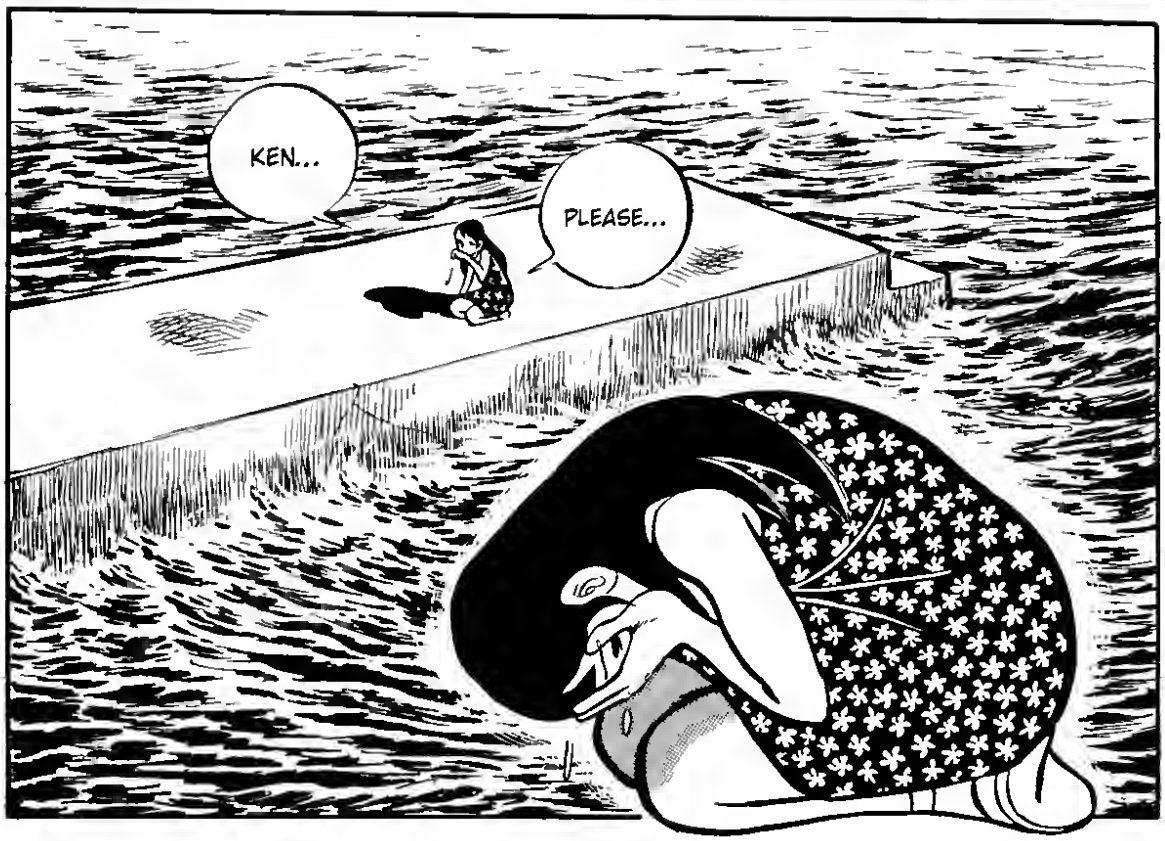
WHEN HE REALIZED HOW DESPERATE WE WERE FOR MONEY, HE TRIED TO HAGGLE US DOWN TO AN ALMOST CRIMINAL PRICE!
THEN THERE'S THE CAMERA SHOP MAN.
YEAH, BUT THEY'RE ALL POOR!!
SURE THERE ARE! WHAT ABOUT GRANNY, SAKURA, AND CAPTAIN AGOHIGE?
THERE ARE NO HONEST PEOPLE!!
HONEST PEOPLE ARE ALL POOR!!
AND THAT GOT HIM HURT... BUT ALL THE DOCTORS PRE-TENDED THEY WERE OUT!
AND THE CAPTAIN HAD TO GIVE UP SAKE BECAUSE OF ME!
GRANNY IS KIND AND HONEST... BUT SHE WAS FORCED TO SELL LEFTOVERS!

WE LIVE IN A WORLD WHERE THE HONEST ARE IN POVERTY, AND ONLY THE RICH DO AS THEY PLEASE...
T... THAT'S WHY...
AND WHAT'S THEIR REWARD? IF THE HONEST ARE REWARDED, I WON'T SAY ANOTHER WORD.
チャポ…
THAT'S WHY I NEED MONEY!!
KEN!
THEN I'LL COME BACK FOR YOU, AKO.
チャポ
チャポ
KEN... I... I'LL...
AKO, I'M GOING TO MAKE MONEY, NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES!!
チャポ

TAKE CARE, AKO...
GOOD-BYE.
I'M GOING TO CHEAT ALL THE PEOPLE THAT CHEATED US AND MOM AND DAD!!
AND I'LL GIVE THE CAPTAIN A LIFETIME OF SAKE!
THEN I'M GOING TO GIVE GRANNY AND SAKURA A NICE HOUSE TO LIVE IN!
UNTIL THEN, AKO, TELL EVERYONE I DIED HERE, AND WAIT FOR ME.
YOU JUST CAN'T...
THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN MAKE MONEY, KEN...

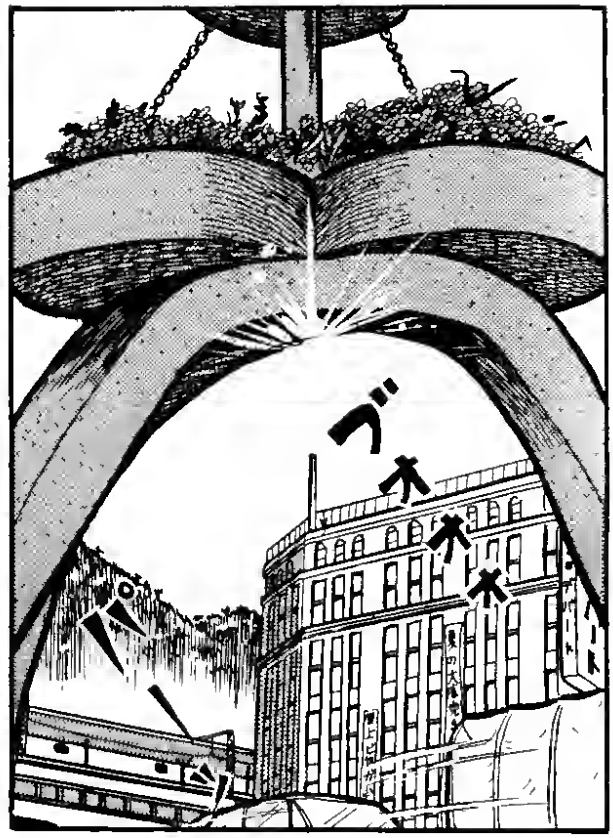
K-KEN!!

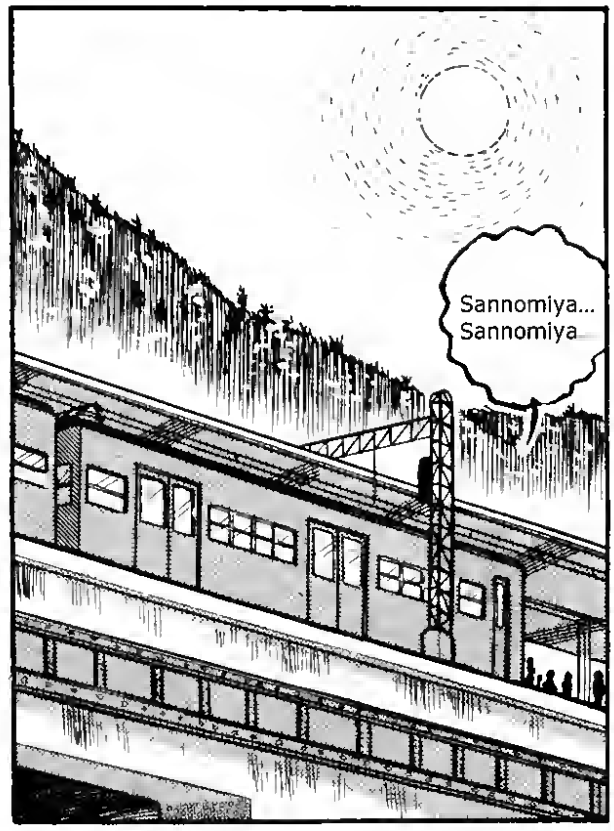
COME BACK FOR ME AS SOON AS YOU CAN!
C-COME BACK SOON...

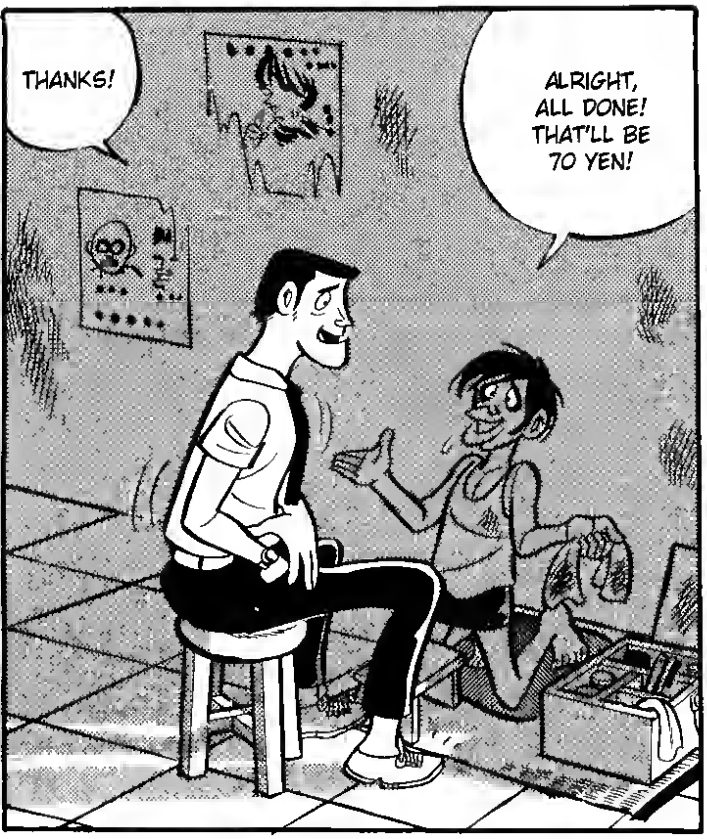

KEN...
PLEASE...

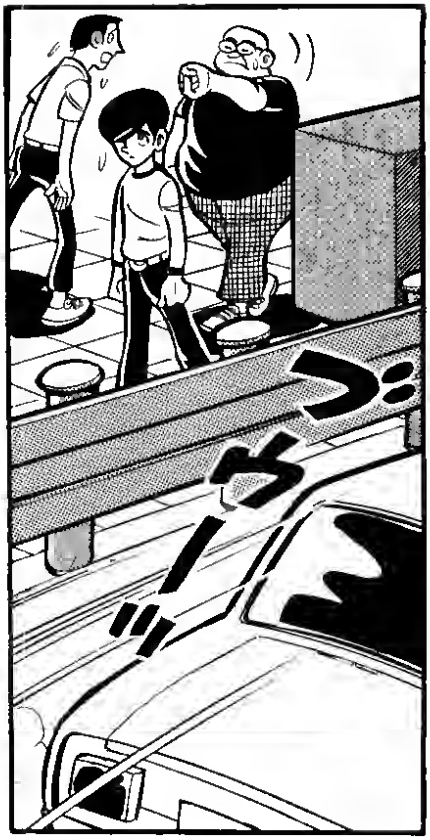
SIGN: TODA HOSPITAL
戸田病院
NO, LET HIM BE.
SHOULD WE GO BRING HIM BACK, CAPTAIN?
I SEE... SO THE KID LEFT TO GO MAKE MONEY...
HE'S MADE UP HIS MIND, NO MATTER HOW BAD A DECISION IT MAY BE.
AND HE'LL REALIZE JUST HOW DREADFUL MONEY CAN BE SOON ENOUGH. MARK MY WORDS, HE WILL. THEN HE'LL COME BACK HERE... WE JUST HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THEN.

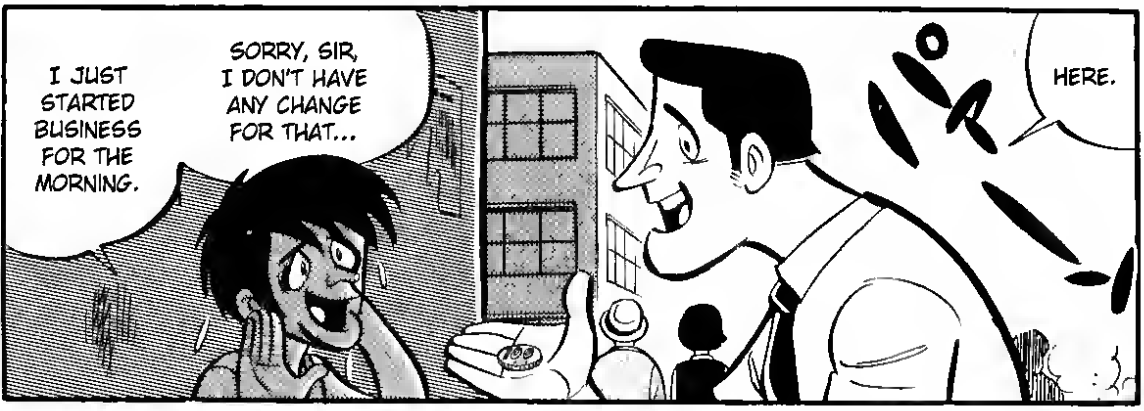
ブウーッ


ブオオオ

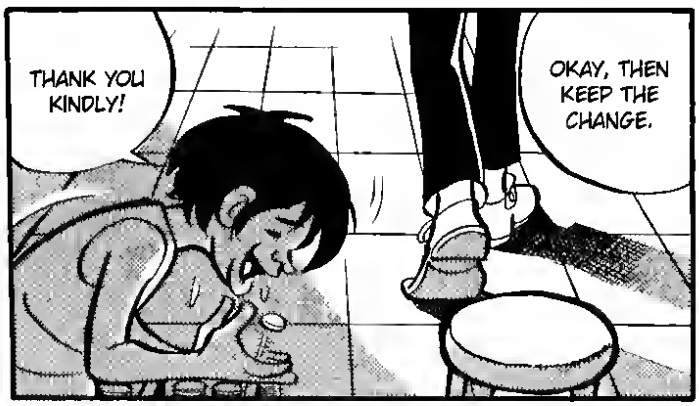

Sannomiya...
Sannomiya


THANKS!
ALRIGHT, ALL DONE! THAT'LL BE 70 YEN!




I JUST STARTED BUSINESS FOR THE MORNING.
SORRY, SIR, I DON'T HAVE ANY CHANGE FOR THAT...
HERE.

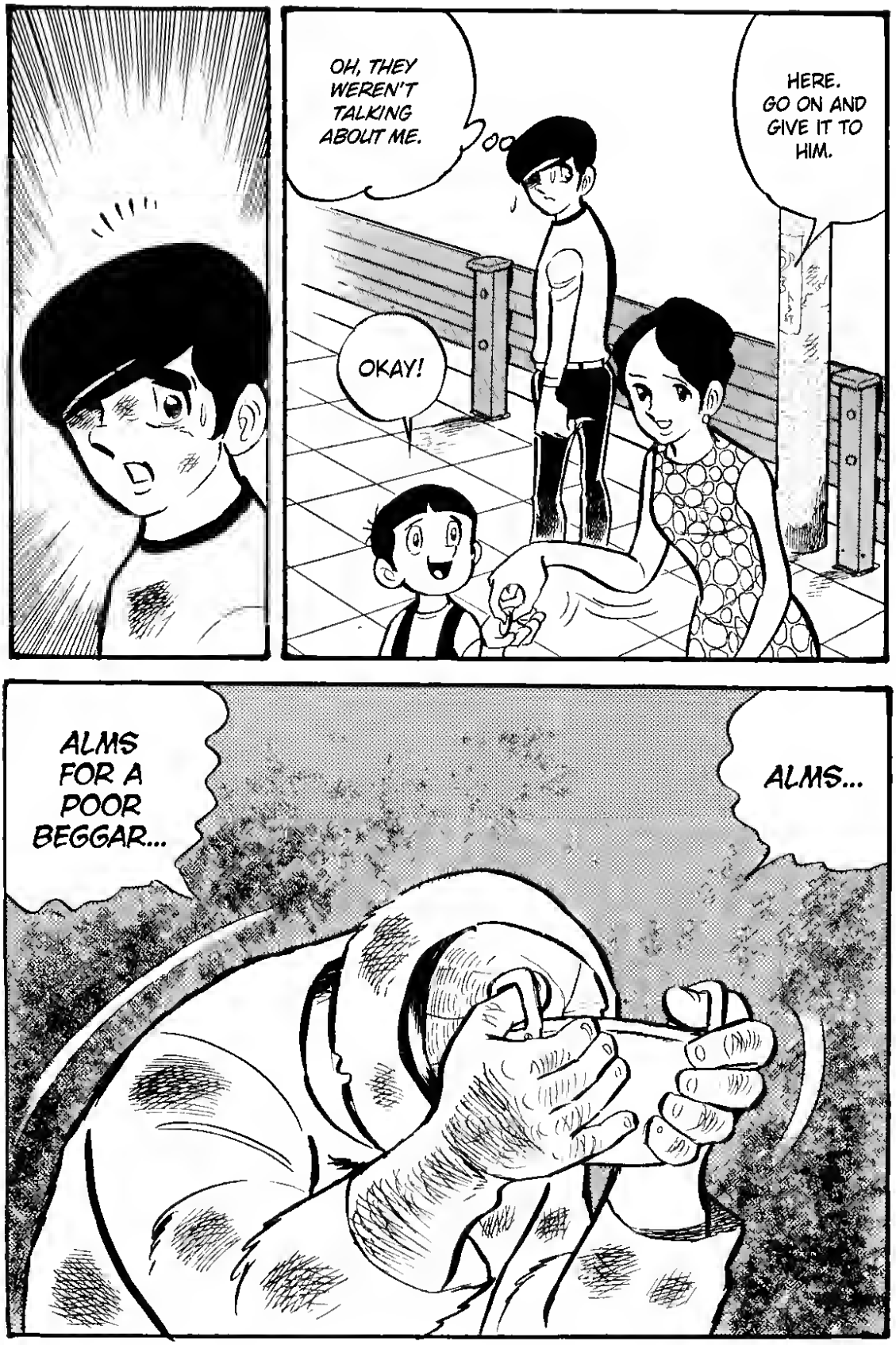
GWEHEHEHE... ANOTHER THIRTY YEN PROFIT...


THANK YOU KINDLY!
OKAY, THEN KEEP THE CHANGE.

STREET TAX...?
WELL, SURE YOU CAN, IF YOU CAN PAY THE STREET TAX.
UMMM.. DO YOU MIND IF I SHINE SOME SHOES, TOO?
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
BUT I DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF MONEY!!
SURE! YOU'RE ON MY TURF, SO YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO PAY A THOUSAND YEN IF YOU WANNA SHINE SHOES HERE!
I DON'T HAVE ANY.
ALRIGHT! THEN SIT DOWN HERE. HEY, WHERE ARE YOUR TOOLS?
OKAY.
ALRIGHT, THEN I'LL TAKE THREE-TENTHS OF WHAT YOU MAKE.

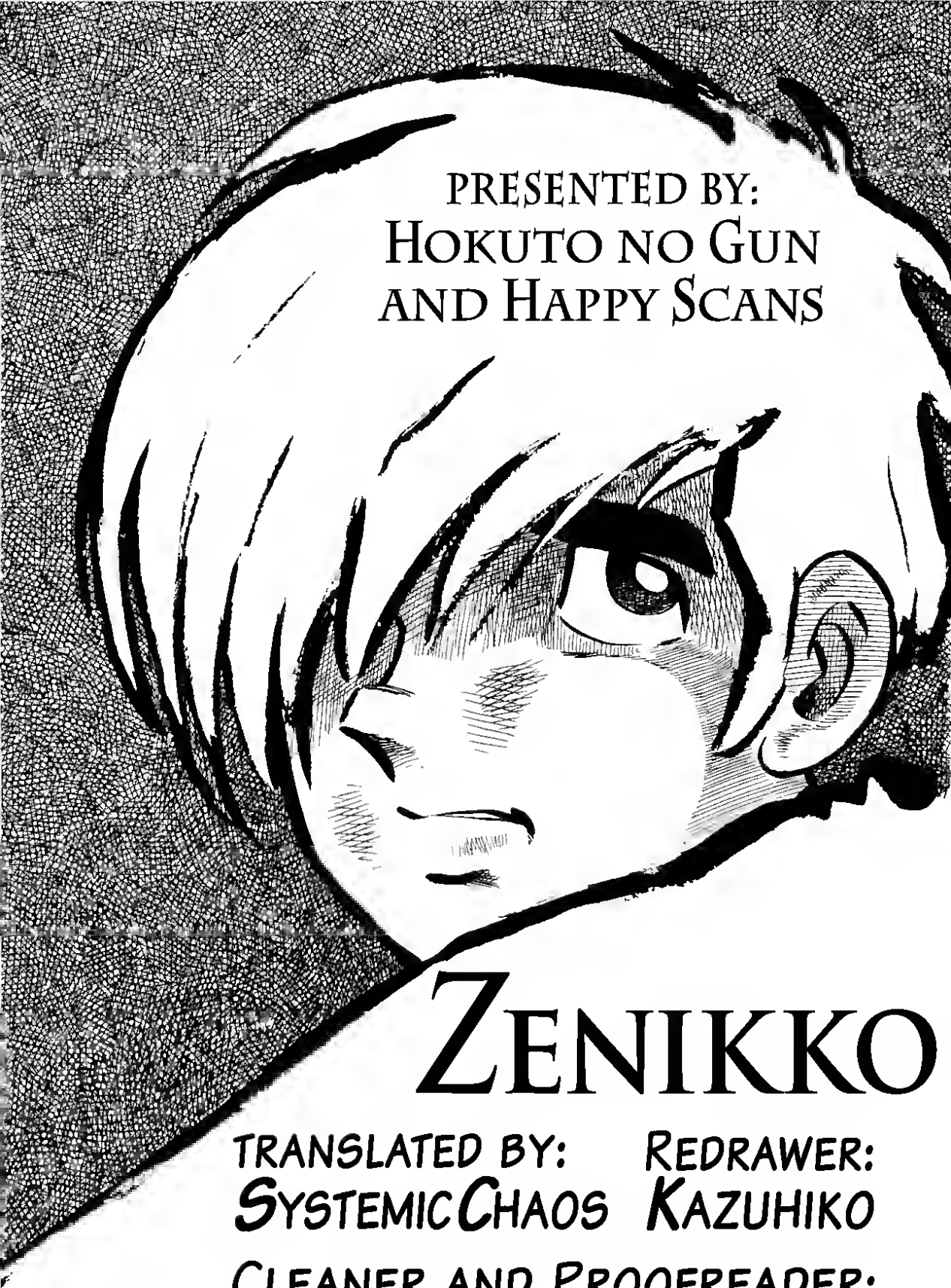
AHH!
NOW, GET LOST! YOU'RE INTERRUPTING MY BUSINESS!
NO, NO, NO!!
FIRST THE STREET TAX, NOW MY TOOLS? YOU THINK YOU CAN DO THIS JOB WITHOUT ANY CAPITAL? WELL, YOU CAN'T!
CAN YOU LEND ME YOURS?
A-AND I'M HUNGRY...
I-IT'S SO HOT...
B-BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY...
I GUESS I CAN'T DO ANYTHING WITHOUT CAPITAL...

どん
レストラン
モンパ
MONPA RESTAURANT
BUT IT COSTS MONEY TO EAT THERE.
YES, YOU'RE RIGHT.
MOMMY, THAT GUY LOOKS SO POOR!
HUH?
AND THERE...
AND THERE...
来々軒
I GUESS I CAN'T EAT WITHOUT MONEY... UNLESS I STEAL.


OH, THEY WEREN'T TALKING ABOUT ME.
HERE. GO ON AND GIVE IT TO HIM.
OKAY!
ALMS FOR A POOR BEGGAR...
ALMS...

!?
チャリ!
THAT'S IT! I DON'T NEED CAPITAL TO BE A BEGGAR!
AND IN PLACE OF A PAN,
I CAN USE THIS BOX!
Thank you so much!
YOU'RE RIGHT!
NOW THAT BEGGAR CAN AFFORD TO EAT!
グゲッシャ
I'D BETTER SIT A LITTLE FURTHER AWAY FROM HIM.
OH! SOMEBODY'S COMING...

HMM?
HE'S DIGGING IN HIS POCKET. HE'S GONNA GIVE ME MONEY!
ピタ
HE STOPPED!
HEEHEE-HEEHEE...
HEY, KID...
ALMS...
A... A...
ペコ
Thank you... Thank you...
カラ
COIN



PRESENTED BY:
HOKUTO NO GUN
AND HAPPY SCANS

ZENIKKO

TRANSLATED BY:
SYSTEMICCHAOS

REDRAWER:
KAZUHIKO

CLEANER AND PROOFREADER:
WRIGHT

TYPESETTER:
TAMBUR